

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-14  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-12 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03  
NASA-02 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 SP-02 PA-02 DOE-15  
SAS-02 CEQ-01 OES-09 SS-15 ICA-20 /180 R

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TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY  
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY  
USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY  
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

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USSALTTWO/CTB

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 7 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL  
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMB, MOSCOW FOR AMB WARNKE

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1. JIM HOAGLAND OF WASHINGTON POST REPORTED THAT FRITZ W. ERMARTH, FORMER CIA STRATEGIC ARMS ANALYST, WILL HEAD NEW NSC UNIT RESPONSIBLE FOR LONGTERM PLANNING ON TACTICAL NUCLEAR FORCES AND STRATEGIC DOCTRINE. HOAGLAND SAID BRZEZINSKI'S DECISION TO ADD AN OFFICE FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING TO NSC'S STAFF APPARATUS ON SEPT. 15 "REFLECTS HOPE WITHIN ADMINISTRATION THAT CURRENT DEADLOCK IN SALT

CAN BE BROKEN, ACCORDING TO SENIOR OFFICIALS WHO DISCLOSED CHANGE." HOAGLAND SAID SALT THREE WILL CENTER ON REDUCTIONS OF TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS "AND MAY PROVE TO BE EVEN MORE COMPLEX AND VOLATILE THAN TWO PREVIOUS ROUNDS. WEST GERMANY AND OTHER U.S. ALLIES ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT PROSPECT OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION TRADING OFF TACTICAL ADVANTAGES IN EUROPE TO OBTAIN STRATEGIC GAINS." HOAGLAND SAID 37-YEAR-OLD ERMARTH'S WORK "IS VIRTUALLY UNKNOWN TO EUROPEAN DEFENSE SPECIALISTS WHO CLOSELY SCRUTINIZE ALL MOVES LEADING TOWARD SALT THREE PREPARATIONS. EVEN CARTER ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS WORKING IN THIS AREA KNOW LITTLE

ABOUT ERMARTH'S VIEWS, SINCE HE HAS SPENT MOST OF HIS CAREER AT RAND CORP AND AT CIA PRODUCING HIGHLY CLASSIFIED ANALYSES ON SALT AND ON STRATEGIC SYSTEMS IN GENERAL." HE SAID ERMARTH CURRENTLY IS WORKING ON RAND STUDY OF AIR FORCE SYSTEMS. "SOURCES WHO HAVE WORKED WITH ERMARTH ON STRATEGIC PLANNING DESCRIBE HIM AS AN ENERGETIC AND DETERMINED ANALYST WHO WILL MAKE AN IMPACT ON INCREASINGLY OPEN DEBATE WITHIN CARTER ADMINISTRATION OVER ARMS CONTROL AND DEPLOYMENT GOALS. HE IS EXPECTED TO REINFORCE THOSE ON NSC WHO STRESS BUILDING UP WEAPONS SYSTEMS TO DEMONSTRATE AMERICAN FIRMNESS TOWARD SOVIET UNION." HIS OFFICE WILL BE KNOWN AS "CLUSTER," AS ARE ALL OTHER NSC STAFF OPERATIONS, HOAGLAND POINTED OUT. ERMARTH'S OFFICE WILL ABSORB SOME OF DUTIES OF SAM HUNTINGTON, WHO RETURNED TO UNCLASSIFIED

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HARVARD LAST MONTH, HOAGLAND ADDED, NOTING THAT ERMARTH WILL BE IN CHARGE OF PERIODICALLY UPDATING NET ASSESSMENT OF BALANCE OF U.S. AND SOVIET FORCES THAT HUNTINGTON WROTE INTO PRM 10. BRZEZINSKI IS ALSO PUTTING HIM IN CHARGE OF BROAD, LONGTERM THINKING ABOUT SALT THREE, WITH EMPHASIS ON MBFR NEGOTIATIONS AND "GRAY AREAS." SENIOR OFFICIAL, HOAGLAND SAID, STRESSED THAT NSC WOULD MAKE MAJOR EFFORT TO DEVELOP STRATEGIC DOCTRINE IN THOSE AREAS. HOAGLAND SAID ERMARTH'S APPOINTMENT COMES DURING PERIOD OF INTENSE DISCUSSION IN WASHINGTON OF THEATER NUCLEAR FORCES AND THEIR ROLE IN SALT. HE QUOTED INFORMED SOURCES AS SAYING NSC HAS WITHIN PAST MONTH PRODUCED PRM ON THAT SUBJECT, SEEKING TO STRIKE BALANCE ON TACTICAL WEAPONS DEPLOYMENT AND ARMS CONTROL THAT WOULD PLEASE U.S. ALLIES. MOREOVER, HOAGLAND CONTINUED, U.S. AND USSR HAVE TO COME TO GENERAL AGREEMENT ON NEGOTIATED PRINCIPLES FOR SALT THREE BEFORE THEY CAN SIGN JOINT DRAFT TREATY FOR SALT TWO. POST STAFF WRITER SAID SALT THREE IS EXPECTED TO COME UP AT LEAST BRIEFLY DURING WARNKE'S TALKS IN MOSCOW. HE SAID OFFICIALS DECLINED TO SAY IF NSC MOVE TO FOCUS ON ROLE OF TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN SALT AND TRIP BY WARNKE INDICATE THAT SALT TWO NEGOTIATORS ARE

WITHIN REACH OF AN AGREEMENT THAT COULD BE SENT BY END OF YEAR, AS OTHER OFFICIALS HAVE SUGGESTED IN RECENT DAYS. HOAGLAND SAID WARNKE TRIP WAS DESCRIBED BY ONE OFFICIAL AS ROUTINE PREVIEW FOR SOVIETS OF WHAT VANCE WILL TELL GROMYKO LATER THIS MONTH. ONLY DIFFERENCE IN THIS PREVIEW AND PAST PRACTICE IS THAT IT IS BEING DONE IN MOSCOW IN WHAT VANCE SEES AS COURTESY GESTURE, HOAGLAND POINTED OUT. US. NEGOTIATORS NORMALLY BRIEF SOVIET AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN IN WASHINGTON. HOAGLAND QUOTED OFFICIAL AS SAYING WARNKE CARRIED SOME NEW "DEFINITIONS" ON FORCE LEVELS AND FUTURE INTERCONTINENTAL STRIKE SYSTEMS, AND SOME RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS GROMYKO RAISED WITH VANCE LAST JULY IN GENEVA. THAT OFFICIAL EMPHASIZED THAT THERE

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WOULD BE NO SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS DURING WARNKE'S STAY IN MOSCOW, HOAGLAND SAID.

2. BERNARD GWERTZMAN OF NEW YORK TIMES, IN SPECIAL TO WASHINGTON STAR, REPORTED THAT WARNKE FLEW TO MOSCOW WITH SOME NEW IDEAS FOR RESOLVING QUESTIONS HOLDING UP SALT TWO AGREEMENT. HE QUOTED U.S. OFFICIALS AS SAYING WARNKE WAS NOT EXPECTED TO ACCOMPLISH BREAKTHROUGH ON THREE OR FOUR KEY ISSUES LEFT BUT RATHER TO SET STAGE FOR GROMYKO'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON, SET TENTATIVELY FOR WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 17. WARNKE'S TRIP WAS APPROVED BY CARTER ON SATURDAY, GWERTZMAN SAID. "ACCORDING TO OFFICIALS, WARNKE HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO OFFER SOME SUGGESTIONS TO RUSSIANS ON SOME OF REMAINING QUESTIONS AND TO RESPOND TO SOME QUESTIONS RAISED BY MOSCOW IN PREVIOUS NEGOTIATIONS." GWERTZMAN NOTED THAT THIS WAS FIRST TIME HIGH-LEVEL MISSION HAS BEEN SENT TO MOSCOW IN ADVANCE OF GROMYKO-VANCE MEETING. HE SAID APART FROM TALKS WITH VANCE HERE, GROMYKO PROBABLY ALSO WILL MEET WITH CARTER "IN WHAT ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS HAVE DESCRIBED AS POSSIBLY DECISIVE ROUND OF TALKS. WITH ONLY FEW QUESTIONS REMAINING, SEVERAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS SAID AS RECENTLY AS YESTERDAY THAT SALT AGREEMENT COULD BE COMPLETED BY END OF YEAR." GWERTZMAN SAID THEY HAVE LEFT OPEN POSSIBILITY OF VISIT TO U.S. BY BRZHNEV TO CONCLUDE FINAL DETAILS. OFFICIALS SAID GROMYKO EARLIER TOLD VANCE USSR WAS READY TO ACCEPT U.S. PROPOSAL MADE IN APRIL THAT WOULD ALLOW EACH SIDE TO TEST AND DEPLOY ONE NEW ICBM SYSTEM, EITHER SINGLE WARHEAD OR MULTIPLE WARHEAD TYPE, DURING LIFE OF SALT TWO PACT THAT WOULD EXPIRE IN 1985. BUT APPROVAL WAS LINKED TO AN UNACCEPTABLE TRADEOFF ON OTHER ISSUES, OFFICIALS TOLD GWERTZMAN. HE SAID QUESTION OF WHAT KINDS OF NEW MISSILE SYSTEMS TO BE PERMITTED DURING ACCORD HAS BEEN ONE OF MOST

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CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES HOLDING UP LONG DRAWN-OUT SALT TWO NEGOTIATIONS. GWERTZMAN SAID U.S. WANTS CONCRETE ASSURANCES ON BACKFIRE, INCLUDING STATED LIMITS ON PRODUCTION RATE AND PLEDGES THAT BACKFIRE WOULD NOT BE BASED AT CERTAIN AIRFIELDS. HE SAID TWO SIDES ARE IN DISAGREEMENT OVER WHEN THEIR FORCES HAVE TO BE AT 2,250 LEVEL. U.S. WOULD LIKE DISMANTLING OF SOVIET MISSILES TO BEGIN IN JANUARY, 1980 AND END BY DECEMBER 31 OF THAT YEAR. SOVIETS, CLAIMING TECHNICAL PROBLEMS, HAVE PROPOSED BEGINNING DISMANTLING ON DECEMBER 30, 1980. "GROMYKO IN GENEVA SAID PROCESS WOULD BE OVER IN 12 MONTHS BUT OFFICIAL SOVIET DELEGATION HAS ASKED FOR 18 MONTHS," GWERTZMAN REPORTED. "WARNKE HOPES TO CLARIFY THAT QUESTION." GWERTZMAN SAID U.S. HAS SOUGHT TO FREEZE NUMBER OF WARHEADS THAT COULD BE FIRED FROM ANY ONE MISSILE AT TEN, CURRENT MAXIMUM. IN TURN, SOVIETS, WHO FELT LIMIT OF TEN WARHEADS WAS AIMED AT

THEM, PROPOSED THAT THERE BE LIMIT OF 20 ON NUMBER OF CRUISE MISSILES THAT COULD BE CARRIED ON AN AIRCRAFT, GWERTZMAN REPORTED, NOTING THAT 20 IS NUMBER THAT B-52 CAN CARRY. HE SAID AIR FORCE OFFICIALS HAVE OPPOSED SUCH LIMIT BECAUSE PLANS FOR USING WIDE BODY 747S ENVISAGE AS MANY AS 80 BEING CARRIED, GWERTZMAN ADDED. CHRISTOPHER

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